

State Program Standing Committee
Child, Adolescent, and Family Unit
Division of Mental Health
Department of Health
Agency of Human Services

Minutes of September 25, 2006 Meeting
Stanley Hall, Waterbury Complex
10:00 – 12:00

Present: Kathy Holsopple, Zachary Hughes, Karen Mehrtens, Joy Prior, Robin Yandell

Absent: Carla Brisson, Amy Churchill

Guests: Charlie Biss, Alice Maynard

I. Updates

- A. Minutes: July 31 minutes were approved as written.
- B. Committee membership:
 - reported that Carl Theodore has found it necessary to resign from the committee for personal reasons. Members expressed regret and gratitude for his contributions to the committee.
 - Discussion of the need to increase membership and possible strategies. Points made:
 - The Federation of Families has sent out a message to the Peer Navigators that we need more parents for this committee.
 - The committee could do more to provide pre and post meeting support to new members.
 - The committee could hold an occasional focus group to gather more input, increase the awareness of more parents about its existence, and provide an introduction possible appointment
 - The committee could consider meeting via conference call, move the location of meetings around, and/or consider meeting quarterly instead of monthly.
 - If we wish to recruit transition age youth, the committee could send a letter to JOBS Coordinators and Special Education Coordinators to enlist their help.
- C. UCS Program Review site visit re-scheduled for October 16. SPSC participants: Zachary, Joy, and Kathy.

II. Designation

- Correction to the report: Add Karen Mehrtens and Amy Churchill as participants in report.
- Members voted to re-designate Washington County Mental Health with no further action required. [See letter to Commissioner Moffatt.]

II. Transition

Members asked what has been done to improve the situation for youth trying to transition to adult life. Charlie reported on several projects, including:

- Mental Health's JOBS program
- DCF will start building into its budget benefits to youth who are in custody at age 18 and are still in school or in job training
- Youth Service Bureaus are working on housing
- Education has Transition Plans required for youth in Special Education

Members believe transition planning cannot wait until a youth is 16-18 years old to begin.

Agreement that we need a system of care approach and an individualized plan for all youth at the

Approved

margins, not just those on an IEP, with a developmental disability, or in DCF custody. Under AHS reorganization, we should be able to shape laws and funding to require the necessary collaboration. Charlie pointed out some of the difficulties in trying to make a system built on Medicaid funding help us pay for community-based services and supports, particularly at a time when medical and drug costs are pushing the Medicaid budget to ever higher levels.

IV. Hot Topics

Members want action steps listed at the end of the minutes.

V. Public Comment

None.

VI. Action Steps

- Plan a meeting with Local Program Standing Committees
- Plan a focus forum with youth
- Write a letter requesting young people apply to SPSC; share letter with JOBS Coordinators and Special Education Administrators requesting they distribute it to possible candidates

VII. Potential agenda items for next meeting, November 6, 12:00 – 1:45, Waterbury complex

- See VI. above; begin action items
- Review Clara Martin Center Program Review final report